

CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If any extension of time for this response is required, Applicants request that this be considered a petition therefore. Please charge the required fee to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

ADDITIONAL FEES

Please charge any further insufficiency of fees, or credit any excess to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 were pending in the application. Independent claims 1 and 2 have been amended and claims 29-32 have been added. Both amended claims and the new claims do not introduce new matter.

All claims have been held rejected under either 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by Reidel, or as obvious under 35 § 103(a) over Reidel in view of various secondary references.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge Examiner's time and effort in the telephone interview of October 23, 2002.

During the interview Examiner and Applicants' representative were able to come to a partial agreement regarding the limitation(s) that may result in the claims being held allowable. Specifically, the parties agreed that a key issue to resolve was the meaning of, and the alleged indefiniteness of, the term "doped adhesive."

In response, Applicants have amended independent claims to delete the term "doped adhesive" and add the term "an adhesive composition further comprising a

pharmacologically active agent." This amendment is submitted to expedite the prosecution of the application, and should not be construed as Applicants' concession that the alleged indefiniteness rejection was proper.

This limitation overcomes the alleged indefiniteness of the term "doped adhesive" and more specifically indicates that the adhesive is an (a) active agent; and one whose activity is (b) pharmacological in nature.

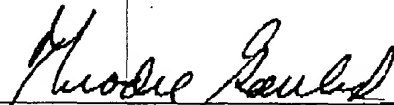
In accordance, the term *pharmacologically active agent* includes those agents that persons with ordinary skill in the art would recognize as having therapeutic value when administered to a subject.

It is respectfully asserted that neither of the references taken individually or in combination teach or suggest the claimed backing material being at least partially coated with an active-agent containing adhesive.

In view of this, the references do not teach or suggest all the elements of amended claims 1 and 2. Therefore, all rejections under §§ 102(a) and 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully suggest that the claims are now in condition for allowance and that allowance be granted.

Respectfully submitted,
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MARK UP OF AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (Amended three times) Backing material for medical purposes, characterized in that the backing material is a nonwoven, overstitched by yarns, ~~and having an ultimate tensile stress strength of at least 10 N/cm~~ and in that the backing material is coated partially or over its entire full area on at least one side with ~~an a-doped~~ adhesive composition further comprising at least one pharmacologically active agent.
2. (Amended three times) Backing material for medical purposes, characterized in that the backing material is a nonwoven which is reinforced by the formation of stitches formed by loops from the fibers fibres of the web, ~~the ultimate tensile stress strength of the backing material being at least 10 N/cm~~, and in that the backing material is coated partially or over its entire full area on at least one side with ~~an a-doped~~ adhesive composition further comprising at least one pharmacologically active agent.